

Arlington Redevelopment Board
March 30, 2015 Minutes
Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conference Room, Town Hall – 7:00pm

Approved April 13, 2015

PRESENT: Chair, Andrew Bunnell, Mike Cayer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Andy West

ABSENT:

STAFF: Carol Kowalski

Documents Used:

Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2015-2022

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00pm and turned to the agenda item of considering the adoption of the Open Space Plan update. Mr. Bunnell introduced Ann LeRoyer from the Open Space Committee. He asked that she summarize the plan and what she is asking the Board to consider.

Ms. LeRoyer said this plan is covering the period from 2015 to 2022. It is basically an update of the 2007 plan that was for 5 years, with an extension from the state. The Open Space Committee is asking for a letter of support that will need to go into the plan eventually. Ms. LeRoyer summarized the plan and pointed out sections that have been updated since the 2007 plan.

Mr. Fitzsimmons asked for clarification if the Open Space committee needs a letter or support, or an endorsement.

Ms. LeRoyer said the Open Space Committee is requesting a letter of support.

Mr. Fitzsimmons asked about how the Redevelopment Board's support of the Open Space Plan might affect their land use decisions in the future. For instance, in the event that the decision on land use were to come before the Board, and the view of the Board members is that the land might be suited to a better form of development, would this support of the Open Space Committee be exclusive of any other land use options.

Ms. LeRoyer said no, the plan is a blueprint policy for land use but it is not exclusive. Ms. LeRoyer said there is no mandate within the plan that says if land is not developed, it can never be developed. That is not the point of the plan.

Mr. Cayer said as a Planning Board they will need to adopt it, along with write a letter of support. Mr. Cayer asked what the process was in drafting and approving it, such as public comment.

Ms. LeRoyer summarized the members of the Open Space Committee, and said the public process was similar to the Master Plan. There were a series of meetings held in conjunction with the Master Plan meetings.

Mr. Cayer said he was surprised that on the Implementation Plan there was not much distinction between short term, midterm, and long term.

Ms. LeRoyer said she understood, and that is a challenging issue. She specified what the Committee is going to focus on for short term goals once this plan is adopted.

Mr. Cayer and Ms. LeRoyer discussed some edits that could be made to the Implementation Plan.

Mr. West said recognizing the importance of the Mill Brook District to the Town would be helpful. Mr. West asked if all the pieces of Town owned land are represented in the Plan.

Ms. LeRoyer confirmed that most of the Town owned land is represented in the Plan; there are a few small areas that are not included.

Mr. West asked for other new aspects of the Open Space Report.

Ms. LeRoyer said Elizabeth Island, and Symmes were both new items added. There was also a little work done at Old Schwamb Mill where some landscaping has been improved.

Mr. West asked if the section regarding Mugar property was amended at all.

Ms. LeRoyer said it was updated a little bit.

Mr. Bunnell said he appreciated the items on the Reservoir, McClennen Park and Mt. Gilboa since it is always nice to learn more about the neighborhood you live in.

The Board thanked Ms. LeRoyer for presenting her information.

Mr. Fitzsimmons moved that the Redevelopment Board adopt and support the Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2015-2022 as revised by the Open Space Committee on March 27, 2015 subject to making the corrections as noted, and that the Chairman is authorized to sign a letter of support.

Mr. West seconded. All voted in favor.

The Board turned to the agenda item of approval of the meeting minutes from March 23, 2015. Mr. Cayer moved to approve the minutes from March 23, 2015. Mr. Fitzsimmons seconded. All voted in favor.

Mr. Cayer moved to adjourn. Mr. West seconded. All voted in favor.